

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that issues a data print request, and a plurality of output terminals that is distributed and installed at various locations to print data, receives a data print request from the portable terminal, and outputs data regarding the data print request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a storage device that stores output terminal information regarding the output terminals for each of the output terminals;

a selecting device that selects one of the plurality of output terminals;

a data format converting device that converts the output data into a format according to the output terminal information; and

an output device that outputs the data regarding the data print request to the output terminal selected by the selecting device, the data print request including search data necessary for the selecting device to select the output terminal, and the selecting device retrieving output terminal information from the storage device on the basis of the search data contained in the data print request and on the basis of a capability of the data formatting converting device so as to select an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to receive provided output data.

2. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output terminal information including data on an output terminal position to determine the location where the output terminal is installed,

the search data including data on a portable terminal position to determine the position of the portable terminal, and

the selecting device retrieving output terminal position data from the storage device on the basis of data on a portable terminal position contained in the search data, to thereby select an output terminal considered to be the closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as a reference.

3. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output terminal information including data on an output terminal position to determine a location where the output terminal is installed,

the search data including data on a desired providing area that indicates a desired providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired to be provided, and

the selecting device retrieving data on an output terminal position from the storage device on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in the search data to thereby to select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data on a desired providing area.

4. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 3, the selecting device not performing search based on the data on a portable terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position is not included in the area specified by the data on a desired providing area included in the search data.

5. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output terminal information including printing format data indicating a data format that can be printed by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding the data print request,

the search data including the printing format data, and

the selecting device retrieving printing format data from the storage device on the basis of the printing format data included in the search data, and selecting an output terminal associated with the printing format data.

6. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output terminal information including printing specification data indicating the printing specification of the output terminal,

the search data including the printing specification data, and

the selecting device retrieving printing specification data from the storage device on the basis of printing specification data included in the search data, and selecting an output terminal associated with the printing specification data.

7. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output terminal information including output terminal identifying data that identifies the output terminals,

the search data including the output terminal identifying data, and

the selecting device retrieving output terminal identifying data from the storage device solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the search data, and selecting an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal identifying data.

8. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 1, the output device outputting output terminal information corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting device to the portable terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) The data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that issues a data output request, and a plurality of output terminals that are distributed and installed at various locations to output data, receives a data output request from the portable terminal, and

outputs data regarding the data output request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a storage device that stores output terminal information regarding the output terminals for each of the output terminals;

a selecting device that selects one of the plurality of output terminals;

a data format converting device that converts the output data into a format according to the output terminal information, and

an output device that outputs the data regarding the data output request to an output terminal selected by the selecting device, the data output request including search data necessary for the selecting device to select the output terminal, and the selecting device retrieving output terminal information from the storage device on the basis of the search data contained in the data output request and on the basis of a capability of the data formatting converting device so as to select an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to receive provided output data.

10. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output terminal information including data on an output terminal position to determine the location where the output terminal is installed,
the search data including data on a portable terminal position to determine the position of the portable terminal, and
the selecting device retrieving data on an output terminal position from the storage device on the basis of the data on a portable terminal position contained in the search data, to thereby select an output terminal considered to be the closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as a reference.

11. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output terminal information including data on an output terminal position
for determining a location where the output terminal is installed,
the search data including desired providing area data that indicates a desired
providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired to be provided,
and
the selecting device retrieving data on an output terminal position from the
storage device on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in the search data
to thereby select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data on a desired
providing area.

12. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 11,
the selecting device not performing a search based on data on a portable
terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position is not
included in the area specified by data on a desired providing area included in the search data.

13. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output terminal information including output format data indicating a data
format that can be output by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding the
data output request,
the search data including the output format data, and
the selecting device retrieving output format data from the storage device on
the basis of the output format data included in the search data, and selecting an output
terminal associated with the output format data.

14. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output terminal information including output specification data indicating
the output specification of the output terminal,

the search data including the output specification data, and
the selecting device retrieving output specification data from the storage device on the basis of output specification data included in the search data, and selecting an output terminal associated with the output specification data.

15. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output terminal information including output terminal identifying data that identifies the output terminals,

the search data including the output terminal identifying data, and
the selecting device retrieving output terminal identifying data from the storage device solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the search data, and selecting an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal identifying data.

16. (Previously Presented) The data output controller according to claim 9,
the output device outputting output terminal information corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting device to the portable terminal.

17. (New) A data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that, issues a data print request, and a plurality of output terminals that is distributed and installed at various locations to print data, receives a data print request from the portable terminal, and outputs data regarding the data print request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

means for displaying information on the portable terminal; and
means for printing the information via the output terminal in more detail than the portable terminal.

18. (New) A data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that, issues a data print request, and a plurality of output terminals that is distributed and installed at various locations to print

data, receives a data print request from the portable terminal, and outputs data regarding the data print request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a display to display information on the portable terminal; and

a printer to print the information via the output terminal in more detail than the portable terminal.